place a mechanism for the return of unintentionally transgressing fishermen and their boats from high seas without apprehending them; and to initiate steps for early release of civilian prisoners. It was also agreed in principle to re-establish the Consulates General in Karachi and Mumbai.

Malfunctioning of International Indian School, Jeddah

943. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any action has been initiated on representations submitted during April, 2004 to the Consulate General, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia regarding malfunctioning of the Managing Committee and Chairman, International Indian School, Jeddah;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Indian Community at Jeddah has requested for dissolving the present Managing Committee of above school;

(e) if so, the action taken thereon;

(f) whether Indian Embassy in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia intervened during the year 2004 on the removal of Director, International Indian School, Jeddah; and

(g) if so, the details of the procedure adopted for above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) The representations were given careful consideration by the Consulate General of India, Jeddah. However, as the International Indian School in Jeddah functions under a charter issued by the Ministry of Education, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, neither the Embassy of India, Riyadh nor the Consulate General of India in Jeddah have executive authority in the functioning of the school in terms of the charter. Consequently, there could be no direct involvement by the Embassy or the Consulate General of India in the functioning of the International Indian Schools.

(d) and (e) Sections of the Indian community from time to time have called for dissolution of the Managing Committees. Attention of the

concerned Saudi authorities is drawn to such representations including the one referred to above.

(f) and (g) The Director, International Indian School (IIS) Jeddah completed his contractual period on March 31, 2004. The Managing Committee of the School and the Higher Board of Indian Schools constituted by the Ministry of Education, Saudi Arabia did not extend the contract. Indian Embassy in Riyadh had no authority in the matter.

Kashmir issue in SAARC conference

944. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the then Prime Minister and his counterpart Pakistani Prime Minister did not raise the Kashmir issue during SAARC Conference in Pakistan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether both sides have agreed to overlook Kashmir issue for confidence building?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) There is no provision in the SAARC Charter for discussions on bilateral issues. On the margins of the SAARC Summit that was held in Islamabad on January 4-6, 2004, Prime Minister of India met his Pakistani counterpart and President Musharraf of Pakistan. In the Joint Press Statement issued on January 6, 2004, it was elaborated that Prime Minister of India in his meeting with President Musharraf had said that in order to take forward and sustain the dialogue process, violence, hostility and terrorism must be prevented. President Musharraf reassured Prime Minister of India that he will not permit any territory under Pakistan's control to be used to support terrorism in any manner. To carry the process of normalisation forward the President of Pakistan and the Prime Minister of India agreed to commence the process of the Composite Dialogue in February 2004. The two leaders expressed confidence that the resumption of the Composite Dialogue would lead to peaceful settlement of all bilateral issues, including Jammu & Kashmir, to the satisfaction of both sides.

(c) India is committed to a peaceful settlement of all bilateral issues with Pakistan.